



LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-15 (Previously canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A sound-absorbing article which is one of a lining or a shaped element and which has a sound absorptive effect over a broad frequency range when positioned proximate a reverberant wall, the sound-absorbing article comprising:

at least one microperforated sheet absorber which has microperforations defined therein having at least one hole diameter ranging from 0.05 mm to 2 mm, which has at least one interhole distance ranging from 1 mm to 20 mm, and which has a proportion of hole area ranging from 0.2 to 4%, based on surface area of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber; and

at least one absorber which is at least one of a foam absorber and a non-woven absorber and which is positioned at a preselected spatial distance from a reverberant wall,

wherein the sound-absorbing article is incorporated into a means for transportation as a composite article selected from the group consisting of wheel housings, hoods, hood linings, engine encapsulations, heat transfer plates, vehicle shields, transmission tunnel linings, dashboards, vehicle seats, seat backs, armrests, steering wheels, carpeting, roof linings, pillar linings, door linings, passenger compartment linings, luggage shelves, rear shelves, heat shields and trunk linings and wherein the microporated sheet absorber and the foam absorber or non-woven absorber cooperate to produce a sound absorptive effect over frequencies ranging at least from 500 Hz to 5000 Hz when positioned proximate a reverberant wall.

Claim 17 (Previously canceled)

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber has a proportion of hole area ranging from 0.3 to 2%, based on the surface area of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the microperforations have at least one hole diameter ranging from 0.1 mm to 0.8 mm and at least one interhole distance ranging from 1 mm to 3 mm.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein a plurality of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber are included, each of the plurality having respectively different hole diameters and respectively different interhole distances.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber has a proportion of hole area ranging from 2 to 20%, based on surface area of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the microperforations have a contiguous surface area ranging from 6 mm² to 40,000 mm².

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the microperforations have the same hole diameters, have the same open surface area, and have a

distribution over the surface of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber which is one of (a) homogeneous or (b) concentrated on one of (1) one place or (2) several places of the at least one microperforated sheet absorber.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber has a thickness ranging from 0.2 mm to 5 mm.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber has a thickness ranging from 0.2 mm to 2 mm.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the at least one microperforated sheet absorber comprises a material selected from the group consisting of plastics, leather, cork, wood, rubber, textiles, glass, and metals.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article is a shaped element and has a plurality of layers, wherein the plurality of layers are comprised of a composition which is one of the same or different.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein at least three microperforated sheet absorbers are included and are positioned and maintained at a mutual distance from one another which is constant, respectively.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein at least three microperforated sheet absorbers are included and are positioned and maintained at a mutual distance from one another which differs, respectively.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article is a shaped element and has a thickness, an interhole distance, and hole diameters which vary over the shaped element.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 16, wherein the sound-absorbing article is incorporated into a means for transportation as a composite article, and wherein the means for transportation is selected from the group consisting of a motor vehicle, a track-bound vehicle, a vessel, and an airplane.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 31, wherein the means for transportation is a motor vehicle and is one of a passenger car, a truck, a bus, and a motor bike.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The sound-absorbing article according to claim 31, wherein the means for transportation is a track-bound vehicle and is one of a locomotive engine, a wagon, and a streetcar.

Claim 34 (Canceled)